

**REMARKS**

In the present Amendment, claims 3 and 9 have been amended to replace “secondary amino group” with --secondary amino compound--. These amendments are supported by the specification, for example, page 54, lines 12-16.

No new matter has been added and entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested. Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1-9 will be pending in the application.

**I. Drawing**

The Examiner has not indicated that the drawing submitted June 15, 2004 has been accepted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge such acceptance in the next PTO communication.

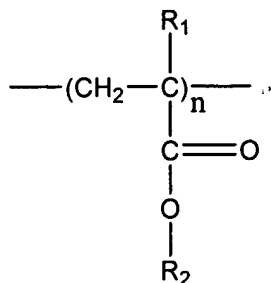
**II. Response to Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103**

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Oshima et al (US 2002/0058729). Further, claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Oshima et al. Moreover, claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Oshima et al.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims are novel and patentable over Oshima et al for at least the following reasons.

Oshima et al discloses an ink composition containing a highly electrical insulating dispersant mainly comprising an aliphatic hydrocarbon solvent, a color material insoluble in the

dispersant, a polymer having a repeating unit of formula (1) (shown below) and soluble in the dispersant, and a metal soap:



formula (1) of Oshima et al

wherein R<sub>1</sub> is one of a hydrogen atom and a methyl group, and R<sub>2</sub> is an alkyl group having 4 to 22 carbon atoms (Abstract). This repeating unit does not contain a half-amide maleic acid component or a maleinimide component.

Oshima et al further describes that the polymer may be formed by copolymerizing a monomer exemplified in Paragraph No. [0061] and one exemplified in Paragraph No. [0062]. In addition, Oshima et al provides specific preferred examples of copolymers (Paragraph Nos. [0065]-[0068]).

Some of the monomers and the copolymers described in Oshima et al contain a dimethyl(or ethyl) amino ethyl (or methyl) (meth)acrylate component. However, none of them contain a half-amide maleic acid component or a maleinimide component, as required in the present invention. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Oshima et al does not disclose or suggest the present claims.

Moreover, particle electric conductivity, which is a value showing the charge amount of the particles of color material as described on page 19 of the present specification, is a physical

value determined by several factors, such as size of the particles, surface area of the particles, charge population and concentration of the particles.

Oshima et al disclose the zeta potential of their particles. Zeta potential is known as a physical value correlating with mobility on electrophoresis of the particles; however, it is not directly reflected in the charge amount of the particles. Therefore, there are no reasonable grounds to conclude that the ink composition of Oshima et al would have a particle electric conductivity within the range of 100 pS/cm or more.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims are not anticipated or rendered obvious by Oshima et al, and thus the rejections should be withdrawn.

### **III. Conclusion**

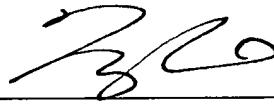
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**  
**U.S. Application No.: 10/781,760**

**Attorney Docket No.: Q80022**

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

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